



Come and “Embrace the colors “of Laureen Croes-Eman at the Cas di Cultura

Local artist Laureen Croes-Eman is having her “One Moment in Time” in the exhibition room of the Cas di Cultura through the end of this week, in her first one woman show titled “Embracing Colors.” During the opening on Wednesday evening she serenaded art lovers with a rendition of the song that was so apropos of this moment in her life, a moment that has been reached through a great deal of personal emotional exploration and discovery.

Her paintings are all about the colors, the energy, and emotions that are driving her at the moment. “When I put an empty canvas before me there is no precise style or theme, it is all about the colors. I love to blend the colors, not mixing, but blending, using several shades of the same color.” Her painting also show the influence of several different styles, presenting a panorama of different schools of painting, from impressionistic to abstract, they bring to mind Gauguin, Picasso, Monet, a favorite influence, Pollack, and Mondrian, but each with the individual personality of Laureen shining through,

“I love depicting women. Most of them are looking down, I believe women are oppressed, in my paintings their expressions are shy, never looking one straight in the eye.” This feeling is a reflection of Laureen’s own personal experiences of late, a process that she has been going through in her life, and emotions that she had been channeling into her paintings. The works themselves often reflect and evoke these emotions of pain, discovery, and serenity, as she sublimated her personal trials into the works being displayed.

She points to a Picassoesque self-portrait and asks, with a laugh, “You don’t think this looks like me?”

“This side of my face reflects my past, and the other is my future. It was a difficult process for me to express myself, as I am coming out of a difficult time, but now I am at peace with myself.”

Laureen has worked closely with artists on many occasions during her time with the Arte Aruba Foundation and its Director, her mentor, artist Maria Theresa Martinez. Finally, Laureen herself picked up brush and paint to produce the exciting show that can be enjoyed every day from 9 am to 9 pm at the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad, on the traffic circle near the airport, next to the Talk of the Town Hotel.

Aside from her passion for the visual arts, it would appear Laureen also has a passion for Karaoke, and she expressed her emotions with a rendition of “One moment in time” for Minister of Culture, Ramon Lee, and many other noted island artists that came to appreciate her works during the official opening.

Saturday the paintings will be on view from 9 am until 1 pm and there will be a special viewing and Sushi Night from 7 to 9 pm that same day.

The exhibition closes with one final show on Sunday afternoon.